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SUBJECT: IRAQI POLICE GRADUATION

1. The first class of Iraqi police cadets graduated from their coursework at the Jordan International Police Training Center on January 29. The 500 cadets were greeted by the Iraqi and Jordanian Interior Ministers, CPA senior advisor Steve Casteel, senior Jordanian police, and diplomats representing those states contributing trainers to the program, Austria, Canada, Finland, Sweden, the UK and the U.S. (The ceremony occurred against the backdrop of those nations' flags, as well as those of Iraq and Jordan.)

2. In his remarks, Iraqi Interior Minister Badran stressed to the cadets their task ahead of defending Iraqis' dignity, liberty and human rights. He said that foundation was essential to stabilizing and bringing prosperity to the Iraqi society and nation, as well as the region.

3. Morale among the cadets, who appeared disciplined and fit, was notably high. At the end of the dignified ceremony, the cadets erupted into congenial high spirits, tossing their hats in the air, dancing in celebration, and having their photos taken with visiting dignitaries.

4. Press presence was good, and included the BBC, the major international wires, Radio Monte Carlo, Radio Sawa, Swedish TV, and the local and regional media.

HALE